

Minutes of Life Support Conference

6 May 1973




25X1

Attendees:



25X1

1. Introductions and Opening Remarks.


25X1  the Group Chairman, opened the meeting with introductions and a few welcoming remarks. He next gave a report of the 4 April 1973 meeting held at the Life Support SPO at which a briefing on the S1010 prototype helmet was given. Several other items of project Life Support equipment were also briefed, and a list of 29 separate items developed over the past several years was furnished to SPO officials. It is anticipated that the SPO will contact the working group chairman to obtain details of several of the items.

2. Tube Food Problems.

A recent lot of tube food (peaches) was noted as "tasting bad," especially near the end of the tube. Investigation revealed that "lactobacillus" had formed in some tubes and was the cause. The fact that the lot of peaches was consumed was not considered seriously significant. A new order of tube food should be delivered in July 1973.

3. Automatic Seat Kit Development.

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This briefing was presented by  ARO Company project engineer. The system is progressing through R&D and breadboard workup and final test reports are anticipated in August 1973. This will be a prime item of interest at our next meeting.

4. S1010 New Flotation.

The new flotation collar has been water tested and is satisfactory from the buoyancy aspect; however, cockpit compatibility appears to be a slight problem. A "flat pack" is required to assure full aft yoke travel and the contractor is working on the problem.

5. S1010 Wrist-Glove Connector Prototype.

A discussion was held regarding the problem that some personnel have in fitting their hand through the wrist-ring connector currently in use. Rather than simply a larger ring, perhaps an oval shaped ring would do the job. R&D by the contractor will be undertaken and a report given at the next meeting.

6. Pressure-Sealing Closure Problem.

The current contractor will no longer guarantee leak rate limits on his closure. Efforts to obtain closures that would be guaranteed have resulted in the conclusion that even if we cull X100s to find one "good one," the cost will still be less than a "guaranteed" zipper. We will continue to procure from the current contractor.

7. Polycarbonate Visor Coating.

Efforts are under way to contact a vendor who will provide visors of the type/quality required. NASA Goddard has been contacted and it is hoped that this contact will prove fruitful. A further report will be given at the next meeting.

8. Survival Weapon..

A contract for 26 weapons has been placed with a vendor; delivery should be in July. The weapon is the one discussed and shown at the 5-6 December 1972 meeting. A copy of this item will be available at our next meeting. (If delivered by then!)

9. I.L.C. Pressure Suit Demonstration.

25X1 and assistant demonstrated their new "tucked joint" modified suit. Considerable improvement in joint mobility was noted. The suit was later taken to California for a demonstration to contractor and user personnel. A report on this activity will be given at the next meeting.

10. S1010 Prototype Helmet Status.

Two flyable helmets have been delivered to users and a June-July O.T.&E. is programmed. It is anticipated that as many as 8-10 individual pilots will fly the new helmet. A final/interim report is expected by the next meeting.

11. Air-Lock Dome for S1010.

The contractor had a "cut-away" dome for display. The idea sounds good. Visor mounting is not a problem - states the contractor. Double thickness of the current "blown dome" will be required, but this should present no problem. It is hoped that the vendor will have a fully demonstrable item for the next meeting.

12. SL010 Helmet/Partial Pressure Suit Interface.

Resultant from efforts of several individuals, it was reported by [] that this effort is "looking good." The marriage of an MC-3 type suit with a AP-22-2/4 helmet could produce a far more comfortable/acceptable PPA for certain users. [] is the OPR for this development and he will report on same at the next meeting.

13. SL010 Aging Study.

This activity continues -- it would appear that service life can be extended by several years -- on certain items/components. Further word will be available at the next meeting.

14. SR-71 Tree Lowering Device Placement Problem.

It appears this has been solved. Re-positioning has been accomplished and crew member acceptance tests are under way. Final report at the next meeting.

15. AMD Pressure Suit Activity Report.

[] reviewed AMD's recent "quick look" at British and French pressure suit developments. Further, he mentioned that the "Boyles Law" suit concept was all but dead. There is no developmental activity presently on-going at AMD -- nor the Life Support SPO! A further and more in-depth recounting of AMD activities is anticipated at our next meeting which is scheduled to be held at AMD/Brooks AFB, Texas.

16. Aircrew Para-sail Training.

No problems -- closed item.

17. O.L. Trip Report.

[] provided a resume of his recent trip to the O.L. All minor problems noted were either resolved/being resolved within SAC's capability.

18. Shark Bag.

Efforts to obtain the "Shark Bag" discussed at the last meeting have been unsuccessful. Further attempts will be made and if successful the bag will be shown at the next meeting.

19. Next Meeting.

[] volunteered Brooks AFB as the next meeting site. Efforts are under way to finalize plans to this end. Normal formal notification will be forwarded as soon as plans are completed.